

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 24 and 29 are currently amended.

5 Claims 1 and 29 are objected to because of informalities.

The abstract is objected to as not being in narrative form.

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 29 as suggested by the Examiner and detailed hereinabove. None of the amendments introduce new matter. Specifically, claim 1 has been
 10 amended to make it absolutely clear that "the connection" in line 5 refers to "the connection of the gamma camera heads" recited in line 2. The Examiner's objections to claims 1 and 29 are moot in light of the amendments.

The Applicant has amended the abstract to be in narrative form as suggested by the Examiner and detailed hereinabove. The Examiner's objection to the abstract is moot in light of
 15 the amendment.

Claims 1-9 and 11-28 stand rejected under Section §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Maor (US 5,811,813) in view of Lange (US 6,180,943). Of these claims, claim 1 and claim 24 are independent claims. The Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner has made no *prima facie* case that Claims 1-9 and 11-28 are unpatentable over Maor in view of Lange.

20 With regard to claims 1-9 and 11-23, the Examiner has correctly pointed out that Maor teaches "rotation" of a pair of gamma camera heads about the *patient* (#24 in Fig 1 of Maor). However, the mechanism for Maor's "rotation" is translation of the apex of an angle formed by the cameras through an arc (see Maor Column 2; lines 27-28 and Maor Fig. 6; Column 4; lines 26-35) as is customary in the art of nuclear imaging. For this reason, reference numeral 24 indicates an arc
 25 in all the figures of Maor in which it appears. Although Maor uses the word "rotation" to describe a motion of the pair of cameras as a unit about the patient, this motion might more accurately be described as "revolution or orbiting about the patient." In fact, Maor does use the clearer term "orbiting" at col. 3, lines 52-55. Revolution or orbiting about the patient is not instantly claimed.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner asserts that Maor teaches rotation about a line
 30 parallel to the connection and refers to reference numeral 29 in Fig. 3 of Maor. Reference numeral 29 indicates a threaded member provided to vary the angle between the two cameras (Column 4; lines 50-55). Maor does not teach, or even hint or suggest, that it is necessary or advantageous to rotate the pair of gamma cameras about an axis of rotation parallel to a connection between the cameras while maintaining a 90 degree angle between the cameras as instantly claimed.

In summary, the Maor reference does not teach "...a rotation mechanism comprising a pivot mounted on the arm, allowing for rotation of the gamma camera heads with respect to the arm..." as claimed in claim 1.

Lange teaches only the adjustment of distance (#13 in Fig. 2 of Lange and Column 3; lines 57-60) between the camera and the subject, and not the instantly claimed rotation. In addition, Lange teaches "revolution about the patient" (Column 2; lines 5-10). Therefore, even if one were to combine Maor and Lange as suggested by the Examiner, such a combination would not produce what is claimed in claim 1, rather it would still define revolution of the structure of the gamma camera heads about the patient and not rotation about the claimed connection between the camera heads.

Alternately, or additionally, the Examiner has provided no *prima facie* evidence that Maor teaches anything which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to seek missing elements of the claimed invention in Lange.

Without advancing any additional arguments in traverse, claims 2-9 and 11-23 are in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

With respect to claim 24, the Examiner is correct in pointing out that Maor does not teach that the gamma camera heads are mounted on an arm as instantly claimed. Maor's teaching of a Gantry including arms is not mechanically equivalent to the claimed arm. As argued hereinabove, the Examiner has provided no *prima facie* evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art would find motivation in Maor to seek an arm of the claimed invention in Lange. In order to make the patentable features of the invention more abundantly clear, the Applicant has added the limit "and is not adapted for orbital motion of the arm itself about a patient in a field of view of the camera heads." to claim 24. Support for this limitation is found in the specification, for example, on page 6 line 26 to page 7; line 16 and in the figures.

Without advancing any additional arguments in traverse, claims 25-28 are in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence from claim 24.

Claim 10 stands rejected under Section §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Maor in view of Lange and further in view of Warne (US 5,762,608). The Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner has made no *prima facie* case that claims 10 is unpatentable over Maor in view of Lange and further in view of Warne.

As a preliminary matter claim 10 is dependent upon claim 1 and is patentable for the same reasons as is claim 1. As argued above, the Examiner has provided no *prima facie* evidence Maor teaches the limitations of the invention as defined in claim 1 nor anything which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to seek missing elements of the claimed invention in Lange.

Therefore, even assuming that Maor and/or Lange teach something which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to seek sensors for sensing obstacles in Warne, combination of Maor and Lange and Warne as suggested by the Examiner would not produce would still produce a system which defines revolution of the structure of the gamma camera heads about the patient and not rotation about the claimed connection between the camera heads.

Claims 29-32 stand rejected under Section §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Lange. The Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner has made no *Prima Facie* case for the rejection of claims 29-32 based upon Lange. The Applicant has broadened claim 29 by amending "the right angle" to an angle. This amendment is a correction of an inadvertent typographical error. The limit "right angle" correctly belongs to claim 30.

As the Examiner has correctly pointed out, Lange is silent with regards to the dimension of the gamma camera heads with respect to the reconstruction volume. The Examiner asserts that reducing the size of the gamma cameras involves merely a change in size of a component.

The Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner has not perceived an important functional difference caused by the reduction in size of the cameras. As the Examiner himself has explained on page 7; lines 10-13 of the current office action:

"Typically, the gamma camera heads are at least as large, if not larger, than the diameter of the reconstruction circle to allow for the detector head to image the entire reconstruction circle at a given angle at one time"

In keeping with the Examiner's summary of what is commonly practiced in the art, Lange (Fig 4 and Column 6; lines 6-67) teaches assembly of a plurality of fields of view (99) to regenerate an image volume.

As suggested by the Examiner's summary of what is commonly practiced in the art, Lange does not teach assembly of portions of a field of view to generate a single field of view 99. This teaching of assembly of single fields of view is absent from Lange because an assembly procedure for individual fields of view is not necessary if the gamma cameras are as large as the reconstruction volume. The logic unit (90) of Lange would therefore not be capable of assembly of a single field of view 99 from partial fields of view, since this would require additional software capability.

Reducing the size of the gamma cameras as instantly claimed necessitates an adjustment in the operational algorithm of the logic unit 90 of Lange (comparable to controller of instant claim 29), in order to permit the assembly of portions of individual fields of view. An adjustment in the operational algorithm to permit the assembly of portions of individual fields of view would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art and would not automatically follow from a reduction in

camera size. Claim 29 is directed towards a system which includes a controller which has been modified in this way. Lange does not teach, hint or suggest such a modification or a controller which has been modified to permit the assembly of portions of individual fields of view.

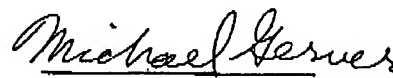
The applicant respectfully suggests that, a change in physical configuration which requires a redesign of existing systems in a manner that changes the commonly accepted conception of the analysis algorithm can hardly be considered to be obvious. This is especially true when the change in physical configuration reduces size, weight, and manufacturing cost by reducing the amount of the expensive gamma detector component employed by the system. For these reasons, the Applicant suggests that the Examiner's application of In Re Rose and/or In Re Aller is inappropriate.

Without advancing any additional arguments in traverse, claims 30-32 are in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence from claim 29.

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant submits that the independent claims 1, 24 and 29 are patentable over the cited art and the specification fulfills all legal requirements. Dependent claims 2-23; 25-28 and 30-32 are in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, 24 or 29 and/or by virtue of claimed features which render them patentably distinct from the prior art.

Allowance of the application is respectfully awaited. If, however, the Examiner is not convinced and the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conversation may forward the present application toward allowance, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned at 1 (877) 428-5468. Please note that this is a direct *toll free* number in the US that is answered in the undersigned's Israel office. Israel is 7 hours ahead of Washington.

Respectfully submitted,
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